

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD SUMMARY

Tuesday, June 19, 2001

SENATE

Measures Introduced:

S. 1062. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to promote organ donation and facilitate interstate linkage and 24-hour access to State donor registries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Durbin

Pages S 6648, S 6453-55

S. 1063. *A bill to amend chapter 72 of title 38, United States Code, to improve the administration of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;* to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Rockefeller

Page S 6648

S. 1064. A bill to amend the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 *to provide certain relief from liability for small businesses;* to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Bond

Pages S 6648, S 6455

Measures Passed:

U.N. Human Rights Commission Membership: Senate agreed to **S. Res. 88**, expressing the sense of the Senate on the importance of membership of the United States on the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

Pages S 6459-60, D 592

Patients' Bill of Rights:

Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1052, to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.

Pages S 6403-40, D 592

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill, with a vote to occur thereon at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, June 21, 2001, and that at 12 noon the Republican manager, or his designee be recognized to offer an amendment.

Page S 6439, D 592

Nominations Received:

Senate received the following nominations:

Laurie Smith Camp, of Nebraska, to be **United States District Judge** for the District of Nebraska, vice William G. Cambridge, retired..

Paul G. Cassell, of Utah, to be **United States District Judge** for the District of Utah, vice Davis Sam, retired.

Page S 6462, D 592

Executive Communications:

EC-2478. A communication from the Clerk of the United States Court of Federal Claims, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to **S. 1456**; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Committee Meetings for Wednesday, June 20, 2001:

Committee on the Judiciary: @ 1:00 p.m., To hold oversight hearings to examine the restoration of confidence in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, SD-226.

Page D 597

Remarks:

Bipartisan Patient Protection Act --Motion to Proceed.

"...That structure--sending those cases to State court--is what has been recommended by the Judicial Conference of the United States headed by Chief Justice Rehnquist. It is what is recommended by the American Bar Association. It is what is recommended by the State attorneys general. People who understand the court system but are objective, not on one side or the other of this debate, have decided this is the place these cases should go for a variety of reasons. No. 1, it treats the HMOs the same as doctors and hospitals are treated. No. 2, they are courts accustomed to handling these types of cases. It makes it more likely the patient can get their case heard more quickly. It is fair. It is equitable. It is supported by every group of objective experts--Judicial Conference, the ABA, the State attorneys general--and, by the way, follows exactly the outline set forth by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Pegram decision. This idea of sending these cases to State court is an idea that is supported by the big legal organizations across the country and as outlined by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Pegram case. [] What we do not do is what has been proposed by some, which is to send every case against an HMO to Federal court. The Federal courts are backlogged so that is a way to bury the cases and assure they never get heard. It is more difficult to get attorneys because many attorneys do not practice in Federal court, and many people are a long way from the nearest Federal courthouse..."

Kennedy

Pages S 6407-8

The Execution of Juan Raul Garza.

This is a sad day for our Federal criminal justice system. The principle of equal justice under law was dealt a severe blow. The American people's reason for confidence in our Federal criminal justice system was diminished. And the credibility and integrity of the U.S. Department of Justice was depreciated. President Bush and Attorney General Ashcroft failed to heed the calls for fairness. Instead, the Government put Juan Garza to death.

Feingold

Pages S 6440-1

HOUSE

Bills Introduced:

H.R. 2215. A bill to authorize appropriations for the Department of Justice for fiscal year 2002, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Sensenbrenner

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H.R. 2216. A bill making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Young

Page H 3258

Bills Introduced (Cont'd.):

H.R. 2218. A bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to provide for coverage under

that Act of employees of States and political subdivisions of States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Andrews

Page H 3258

H.R. 2221. A bill to ban the import of large capacity ammunition feeding devices, to promote the safe storage and use of handguns by consumers, and to extend Brady background checks to gun shows; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DeGette

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H.R. 2226. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to protect the equal participation of eligible voters in campaigns for election for Federal office; to the Committee on House Administration.

Gillmor

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H.R. 2231. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, with respect to patent reexamination proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Lofgren

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H.R. 2241. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Traficant

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H.R. 2242. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to establish Flag Day as a legal public holiday; to the Committee on Government Reform.

Traficant

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Committee Meetings:

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Crime held a hearing on the following bills: **H.R. 1644**, Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001; and **H.R. 2172** Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001.

Committee Meetings for Wednesday, June 19, 2001:

Committee on the Judiciary: @ 11:00 a.m., to mark up the following: **H.R. 1866**, to amend title 35, United States Code, to clarify the basis for granting requests for reexamination of patents; **H.R. 1886**, to amend title 35, United States Code, to provide for appeals by third parties in certain patent reexamination proceedings; **H.R. 1407**, to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit air carriers to meet and discuss their schedules in order to reduce flight delays; **H.J. Res. 36**, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States; the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act; and private relief measures. 2141 Rayburn.

Next SENATE MEETING: Wednesday, 10:00 a.m., June 19, 2001.

Next HOUSE MEETING: Wednesday, 12:00 p. m., June 19, 2001.

OLA: S. Smith, J. Homanich